



SECRET GARDENS  
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Andrew Crabtree and Envision 2040, San Jose Task Force  
Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113  
Andrew.Crabtree@sanjoseca.gov

RE: July 24 vote on Guadalupe River Park as San Jose's Grand Park

Dear Mr. Crabtree and Task Force:

I was most disappointed in the way the July 24<sup>th</sup> Envision 2040 San Jose General Plan Task Force parks meeting was organized. Of particular concern was the way a vote for the Guadalupe River Park (GRP) as San Jose's Grand Park slid into the end of the meeting. At this meeting the Task Force spent nearly two hours talking about big parks versus little parks but none about the details of a "Grand Park".

Of particular concern regarding this vote is:

1. No one at the meeting defined the qualities of a Grand Park.
2. At no point in time was there a description of the GRP.
3. There were Task Force members who had never been to the GRP and knew nothing about it.
4. The public was not allowed to make any comments about their thoughts on GRP as a Grand Park.
5. The Parks Director stated that the GRP was defined as San Jose's Grand Park but there have been no public meetings to see what the public thinks about this.

How can the Task Force vote on something which some know little to nothing about and which others have not all the facts? I think this was an entirely inappropriate vote and it should be rescinded until a time when there has been proper education and discussion on the qualities of a Grand Park and on the possible options of a Grand Park location.

Following is only some information about the GRP which was not presented to the Task Force:

1. The land is owned by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and they have placed and can place many restrictions on the GRP land;
2. The land was cleared of residential housing because it is directly under the beginning of the airport flyway;
3. Some of FAA's restrictions are: no tall trees, tree height limitations, no plants which attract birds;
4. Noise, and air/soil pollution levels are high and pollution and noise tests have not been made public (or possibly they were never done);
5. Airport buildings must be cleaned at least twice a week so they are not black. What will this soot do to the health of future vegetation? It appears no one knows or cares to study this.
6. If San Jose decides to have an Olympic event, will this pollution and place be a detriment to this idea?

I have attached "San Jose Grand Park Qualities and Possible Events and Spaces" which I prepared for you. I hope this will help you understand what we need in a Grand Park for our San Jose.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Mathewson  
Owner, Secret Gardens

Enc. Attachment